Mackenzie, Master of Tragedy, Gives Us a Book of Laughter

Compton Mackenzie

Fleta Campbell Springer Sees "Poor Relations" as Logical Climax of His Art

'Carnival" should give us now in his latest book, "The Poor Relations"

that was to come after it.

A Somber Background

authentic, the intrinsic humor of char- dering, a little uneasily, how it goes acter. The setting was somber enough; with Sylvis now. the squalid, broken windowed upper If one feels, sometimes, that in the the mother giving her offspring the most to prophesy that one day Compton Mac-

All true art, they say, adds some kenzie British, so to speak.

the reading of that printed page.

Compten Mackenzie wrote his best book friend. trait as attractive in an author as in a in "Carnival". They say that it was a friend. a tragedy as the tragedy of Jenny Pearl. is the fulfillment of quat humoresque

By Fleta Campbell Springer | But I should like to wager that Mr. was inevitable that the man who Scarlett a more tragic figure than Jenny Pearl. There was, somehow, a compensation in the completeness of Jenny Pearl's disaster which was denied by Sylvia. And if, in these later books, (Harper's), a book of laughter, a comend so irrevocable, I have an idea that I have been flattering myself since the it is only because Mr. Mackenzie has nublication of this last novel that I had learned that life is not a coherent thing, predicted it for years. Yet I have no to be finished off neatly at a stroke, more justification for my pride than I and he has found the courage to portray should have if upon hearing a well de- the frustration of tragedies as well as fined motif woven into the overture joys. Things happen, approach a cliof an opera I should predict the re- max, recede, are tangled, untangled, apappearance of that motif, amplified, proach a climax again, and again re-worked out, in a scene of the opera itself. Far more than any first hove! I calm. So "Carnival," for all its tragic know the first book of Compton Mac- climax, has seemed to me a less tragic kenzie's bore that relation of overture book than "Sylvia Scarlett" or "Sylto all his later work. It had in it the via and Michael," which, in spite of its germ, the spirit, the prophecy, of all "and so they were married" ending, leaves one with the impression that knowing Sylvia as one has come to know In the very first chapter of "Carni- by any means come to the end of her val" the humoresque was unforgettably stormy life. One is glad that she has heard. Unforgettably, because it was found love; but one cannot help won-

room of the tumbledown old London things that happen to Sylvia Scarlett tenement where, on a black, windy night, the author "piles it on" a bit, there a slatternly mother gave birth to Jenny is only one answer for it: In the case of the Sylvia Scarletia, life piles it on ast awake, called her attention to the bled sometimes like life, again ordered bundle at her side, and, with the appro- and with that curious effect of design thought of her new baby. Whereupon this he puts before you without comment, as if it passed before you on a edly, "Well, I wouldn't wave a flag over more than any English author, the it," turned over with her face to the Russian novelists. Yet he is neither so simple nor so sophisticated as the Ruswas in that first chapter that I stopped sians. If one suspects that he believes kenzic would write a purely humorous sians do well, there are times when I hank it is myself! And it saves Mac. "The Shepherd of the Sea" wickedness to be wickeder than the Eus-

Dullness Disappeared have be entertained, which is to say I wanted knew of the lessons authors would have left in and most in the north seas and is frozen fast its limitations. have retained no more vivid emotion losophical comments upon life, but with of it than I have now, when I recall a funny story, a choice bit of foolery, in order modestly to remind us that we There are many people who say that here not to take him too seriously. A

Unished thing, a coherent work of art. And in his newest novel, "The Poor and that none of his later books has Rel tions," he has shandoned all prebeen quite that. They say that he has tense of covering up the absurdity of given way to the popular demand for life. He says to us, "Come on, let's the happy end; and that he has no long-give up pretending we aren't funny, and er the courage to portray so complete enjoy ourselves as we really are." This

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book. And certainly we cannot say that casual of glances, announced disinterestcasual of glances, announced disintereststage. In this he suggests, perhaps be at that stage when nothing but meat and supplies. The shepherd's be laughing will do it any good.

Territory

Novel of the North and she fills the shepherd's reserve food Shepherd of the Sea," is an English who is now lecturing in the United with snow and ice before he man one would casily guess even n the expedition. She gives though his stories do bear evidence States, has come out of the war with "Buc." the shepherd's supplies, so he of his early transplanting to America. Wait Whitman as his ideal. Mr. Sas-Invades Jack London's will be able to withstend the trip com- The lure of the sea which drew the soon says that he is no longer inspired

The scene of Henry Leverage's novel, they exchange outfits and "Buck" gets adventure as thrilling as any of his of "flesh and blood," he wishes here-Page), is laid in Jack London's country, succeeds in getting mest and Moone is As cabin boy he shipped before the big way.

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Book Gossip

Bennett and Swinnerton

RECENT letter from London dingy forecastle, most of whom he states that Arnold Bennett and sketches from life in the characters Frank Swinnerton left England of his novel. There was Scotty, the m in arm on January 20 for a trip to rtugal. Both gentlemen have had ooks recently published by the Doran mpany in this country.

The names of Bennett and Swinnern will always be connected in the and of the literary world, for it was ennett who called the attention of aders in England and America to winnerton's first novel. Their literry and personal friendship has been rowing ever since, and Bennett wrote he introduction to Swinnerton's masrpiece "Nocturne." It is expected hat Mr. Swinnerton's adventures in 'ortugal will find literary expression oon after the Bennett-Swinnerton trin

The "Ramsey Milholland" Contest Doubledsy, Page & Co. announce

nat the judges chosen for the "Ram-ey Milholland" contest are Professor Villiam Lyon Phelps, of Yale; Robert nan," and Arthur Bartlett Manrice, ritic, author, college mate of Tarkaratory schools, offers the distribu- Africa hung upon the wall back of the 100 in prizes for the best es. platform, to which he would occasionon's latest novel "Ramney Milhol- rican continent is what is called a The original idea of the conat editor was that it would close on I never heard it howl, nor met with any February 12, Lincoln's Birthday, but one who has. It abounds in various the widespread interest the natural productions, such as reptiles closing date has been edvanced to and flowers. It produces the red rose. Those who are interested in the white rose and the neg-roes." In the contest and would like to have "Artemus Ward," a Harper book, Mr. which has sounded so insistently in his near Bank's Land. The outfit runs out some of the circulars giving all the Seitz has made his biography so comwork since the first chapter of his first of food and the shepherd and "Buck" conditions may obtain them by apply, plote and authoritative that it may prepare to go out independently for holland" contest, Doubleday, Page & life and work of the celebrated Ameri-

Leverage a Cabin Boy

That Leverage, the author of "The Siegfried Sassoon, the English poet, runaway boy from his home in Denver by sunsets, pink dawns and forest to the San Francisco water front is his brooks, but must write of "Men and start on their expeditions, however, true English heritage and led him into Measures." Like the American poet

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mast in the steam wheler Karluk and bunted for wholes siong the Arctic coast. Love of adventure or hard luck

bad thrown a curious crew into the of One-time Radical

derelict who had attended many Lord Mayor's banquets in London; Slim Bock, the Eastern gentleman who was stuttered in Billingsgate and admitted ber, is at once an account of an inter- with a "pal" who perpetually preached at least two murders; a Jew, they are esting career and a vivid, colorful pic- With the outbreak of the war the "pal" rare at sea, and the ice pilot, a Yan- ture of East Side life. Coming with her showed himself an ardent patriot, and kee with a board pointed like an icicle. In Siberia Leverage found the material for his "Shepherd of the Sea." The Egquimaus were wild for any sort of old, Marie experienced the bittorest ex- and became a 190 per cent American strong drink and sold a head of baleen tremities of poverty. The want and and an enthusiastic advocate of the or whalebone for five barrels of mixed alcohol and water, and the missionaries family was reduced after the father's safe for democracy. were powerless to prevent the trade. It was at Port Chrence, a godforseken death and her experience of the grinding humor in the book. The author tells reindeer station, that Leverage saw the tyranny of the sweatshops naturally how an obdurate tenant thwarted real shepherd, a large, soft-eyed mis-inclined the girl to radicalism, and a profiteering landlord by building a sionary who looked like a Norseman on a pilgrimage. His picturesque ap-

anarchist and I. W. W. leaders.

An anecdote that is told about Artemus Ward in Don C. Seitz's new biography, "Artemus Ward," runs as fol- York in 1914. She became a familiar ngton and former editor of "The lows: "Artemus Ward was on the plat- figure at radical meetings, where she okman." The contest, which is open form in Philadelphia retailing jokes in was popularly known as "Sweet Marie." students of high schools and pre- 'Sixty Minutes in Africa.' A big map of Finally, maddened by the reports of the ay under 2,000 words long on the ally refer, as, for instance, pointing to southern Colorado, she determined to arger significance of Booth Tarking- Ethiopia: Here in the center of the Ac- kill John D. Rockefeller jr. Armed and Mics Ganz's violent speeches and distinctive, suggestive

"Rebels" Depicts the Life ingly vehement in his advocacy of vioclass war.

Miss Ganz represents herself as con-MARIE GANZ'S autobiography, siderably sobered by the death of "Rebels" (Dodd Mead), written Caron and his friends, by wider readin collaboration with Nat J. Fer- ing and thinking and by association mother from Galicia to join her father Miss Ganz, after hearing President physical suffering to which her entire war to end war and make the world

she became associated with Arthur crate too large to go through the door, pearance suggested the story which Caron, Alexander Berkman and other storing his furniture in it and threatening to sue for any damage which Miss Ganz took an active part in the

"Far Off, Unhappy Things" Is the Distinctive Title .

office, but failed to find him. At that the cathedrals reduced to rubble, the time judges were apparently not as fields laid waste-in a series of little heard the sheeking news that Arthur was necessarily obvious to lesser me Caron and several of her other an- than he-journalistic backs who early archist acquaintances had been killed in the war made the world aware of the by a dynamite explosion in a flat on Lex- physical aspects of war. Lord Dunsany ington Avenue. Berkman professed to writes of it a shade better but with no believe that the explosion was a police particular freshness of viewpoint.

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